

2024

2024 Voter's Guide



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COLUMBIA COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

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Voter's Bill of Rights (Section 101.031, F.S.)

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

1. Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
2. Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that county.
3. Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
4. Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
5. An explanation if his or her registration or identity is in question.
6. If his or her registration or identity is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
7. Written instructions to use when voting, and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from elections officers.
8. Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
9. Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

Voter Responsibilities (Section 101.031, F.S.)

Each registered voter in this state should:

1. Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
2. Maintain with the office of the Supervisor of Elections a current address.
3. Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
4. Bring proper identification to the polling station.
5. Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
6. Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
7. Respect the privacy of other voters.
8. Report any problems or violations of election laws to the Supervisor of Elections.
9. Ask questions, if needed.
10. Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.

NOTE TO VOTER: Failure to perform any of these responsibilities does not prohibit a voter from voting

Election Dates for 2024 Elections

Voter Registration "Book Closing" Deadline

Presidential Preference Primary	Monday, February 19, 2024
Primary Election	Monday, July 22, 2024
General Election	Tuesday, October 7, 2024

Early Voting

Presidential Preference Primary	March 9 – March 16 8:30 - 6:00 SOE Office 8:30 - 5:30 Fort White
Primary Election	August 10 – August 17 8:30 - 6:00 SOE Office 8:30 - 5:30 Fort White
General Election	October 21 – November 2 8:30 - 6:00 SOE Office 8:30 - 5:30 Fort White

Election Day

Presidential Preference Primary	Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Primary Election	Tuesday, August 20, 2024
General Election	Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Candidate Races

1. What offices are up for election in Columbia County in 2024?

Federal Offices

- President of the United States
- Representative in Congress (District 3)
- U.S. Senate

State Offices

- State Attorney (Third Judicial Circuit)
- Public Defender (Third Judicial Circuit)
- State Representative (District 10)

County Offices

- Board of County Commissioners (Districts 1, 3, and 5)
- School Board (Districts 2 and 4)
- Santa Fe Soil and Water Conservation
- Superintendent of Schools
- Property Appraiser
- Tax Collector
- Supervisor of Elections
- Clerk of Courts
- Sherriff

Judicial Retention and Circuit Judges (Nonpartisan)

- Justices of the Florida Supreme Court whose term expires January 2025
- District Court of Appeals Judges whose term expires January 2025
- 3rd Judicial Circuit Judge

Municipal Offices

- City of Lake City Council (Districts 12 and 13)
- City of Lake City Mayor
- Town of Fort White (Districts 2 and 4)
- Town of Fort White Mayor

NOTE: A ballot may also include proposed amendments to Florida’s Constitution and county, municipal, and district referenda or other public measures.

Voter Registration

2. Who can register to vote?

(Section 97.041, Florida Statutes)

To register and vote, you must be:

- At least 18 years of age (you can pre-register on or after your 16th birthday),
- A citizen of the United States of America, and

A legal resident of Florida and of the county where you intend to vote. You cannot register or vote if you are:

- Adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting, unless that right has been restored.
- A convicted felon, unless your right to vote has been restored.
- Not a citizen of the United States of America (A lawful permanent resident cannot register or vote in Florida).

3. How do I register to vote?

(Section 97.053, Florida Statutes)

Submit an application:

- Online at [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](https://www.RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov)
- Through any of these offices:
 - ◆ A Florida driver's license office in person or online when you renew your driver's license at [GoRenew.com](https://www.GoRenew.com);
 - ◆ A tax collector's office that issues driver's licenses or Florida identification cards;
 - ◆ A voter registration agency (i.e., any office that provides public assistance or state funded program for persons with disabilities, any armed recruitment office, any center for independent living and any public library).
- By mail
- In person

The statewide voter registration application form is available for download or print from the Division of Elections' website. Forms are also available at any county Supervisor of Elections office, library, or any entity authorized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to issue fishing, hunting, or trapping permits.

4. When can I register?

(Sections 97.053, 97.055 and 97.0555, Florida Statutes)

You can register or update your record any time. To vote in an upcoming election, the deadline to register is the 29th day before that election. A later registration deadline is available under limited circumstances for military and overseas citizens.

5. Are there any special requirements when registering and voting for the first time in Florida?

(Section 97.0535, Florida Statutes)

Yes, but only if you are registering by mail and have never been issued a Florida driver license number, Florida identification number, or a Social Security number. You must provide a copy of one of the following forms of identification (ID) with your application form or at any time before you vote for the first time:

- Form containing your name and photo:
 - ◆ United States passport
 - ◆ Debit or credit card
 - ◆ Military identification
 - ◆ Student identification
 - ◆ Retirement center identification
 - ◆ Neighborhood association identification
 - ◆ Public assistance Identification
 - ◆ Veteran health identification card issued by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs
 - ◆ Florida license to carry a concealed weapon or firearm
 - ◆ Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the state, a county, or a municipality.
- Or a copy of a current and valid:
 - ◆ Utility bill
 - ◆ Bank statement
 - ◆ Government check or paycheck

Other government document containing your name and current residence address

Note: Do not send original documents with the application form.

If you vote-by-mail and did not submit a copy of the ID with the voter registration application, you must include a copy of your ID with the returned ballot or your ballot will not count. If you fall within one of the following categories, you are exempt from the ID requirement when voting by mail, but you must swear or affirm you are eligible:

- Are 65 years of age or older.
- Have a temporary or permanent physical disability.
- Are a member of the uniformed services on active duty or a spouse or dependent, thereof, who, by reason of such active duty, is absent from the county on Election Day.
- Are a member of the Merchant Marine or a spouse or dependent thereof, who, by reason of service in the Merchant Marine, is absent from the county on Election Day.
- Are residing outside the United States but are eligible to vote in Florida.

Photo/signature ID is required before you vote during early voting or on Election

Day.

Changes in Address, Name, Party, or Signature

6. How do I update my registration record?

(Section 97.053, 97.1031, 101.045, Florida Statutes)

You can submit updates to your voter registration record in the same way you registered to vote. See response to *How do I register to vote?*

Address changes

Once registered in Florida, you do not have to re-register for an address change, but you must:

- Contact the Supervisor of Elections in the county of your new residence.
- Must make the change in person, by phone, by fax, by e-mail, or by other signed written notice (including a voter registration application), provided the signed notice includes your date of birth, or submit a voter registration application.

Name changes

If you changed your name by marriage or other legal process, submit a voter registration application or other signed written notice to include your date of birth. Name changes are allowed at the polls by filling out an affirmation before voting.

Party affiliation changes

To change your party affiliation, submit a voter registration application or other signed written notice, which includes your date of birth. You cannot change your party at the polling place. To be effective for a primary election, a party change must be made at least 29 days before the election.

Signature (handwriting) changes (See section 98.077, Florida Statutes)

To update your signature, submit a voter registration application. Signatures change over time and should be regularly updated with the Supervisor of Elections. If your signature on record does not match your signature on a candidate or issue petition, vote-by-mail ballot, or provisional ballot, the petition or ballot will not count. The latest signature on record by the start of canvassing of ballots is the signature that the Canvassing Board uses to verify a vote-by-mail or provisional ballot. Canvassing can start as early as 15 days before Election Day. Contact your Supervisor to find out when canvassing begins in your county.

7. When can I update my registration record?

(Section 97.055, Florida Statutes)

You can submit an update to your record at any time. To be effective for a primary election, a party change must be made at least 29 days before the election.

8. Why am I being asked to confirm my address?

(Sections 98.065, 98.0655, Florida Statutes)

Whenever the Supervisor of Elections receives information from the post office or another governmental agency source that you have moved, the Supervisor will send you notice to confirm the address change. If the information shows that you may no longer live in the state, the Supervisor of Elections will send you a follow-up address confirmation final notice. If the notice comes back undeliverable or you do not respond within 30 days, your registration status will be changed from active to inactive. As an inactive voter, you are still registered and can vote. Your inactive status goes back to active status if you update your voter registration record, go to the polls to vote, or request a vote-by-mail ballot. However, if you do not take any of these actions after two general (federal) elections from the date you were made first inactive, your name will be removed from the registration system. You will have to re-register to vote in Florida.

Voting By Mail

Note: For vote-by-mail information applicable to absent stateside and overseas uniformed services personnel and overseas civilians, refer to Questions 16-22. For all other voters, read below:

9. Can I vote by mail?

(Sections 97.021(1) and 101.62, Florida Statutes)

Yes, any qualified and registered voter can vote by mail, but you must first request a vote-by-mail ballot. You do not need an excuse to vote-by-mail except on Election Day.

10. How can I request a vote-by-mail ballot?

(Sections 101.62 and 101.69, Florida Statutes)

You, or a member of your immediate family or your legal guardian on your behalf, may request a vote-by-mail ballot from your Supervisor of Elections.

If you make the request, you must provide:

- Your name
- Your address
- Your date of birth
- Your Florida Driver's License/Florida ID Number or Last 4 digits of Social Security Number

If your immediate family member or legal guardian requests the ballot for you, he or she must provide the following *additional* information:

- The requester's name
- The requester's address
- The requester's Driver's License/ ID Number
- The requester's relationship to the voter
- The requester's signature (written request only).

A request can be made either in person, by mail, by fax, by phone, by email or online through www.votecolumbiafl.gov. If you ask that the ballot be mailed to

an address other than one on file, you must submit a signed written request unless you are an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas voter.

You can only request a vote-by-mail ballot for one election year at a time.

11. When can I expect my vote-by-mail ballot?

(Sections 101.62 and 101.69, Florida Statutes)

For vote-by-mail ballot requests already on file, vote-by-mail ballots must be sent:

- No later than 45 days before the election for voters covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). The ballots will be sent *by forwardable mail, fax, or email* as specified by the voter in the request.
- During a 7-day window (between 40 and 33 days) *by non-forwardable mail* to all other non-UOCAVA vote-by-mail ballot voters.

If no vote-by-mail ballot request is on file, your Supervisors of Elections will provide you a vote-by-mail ballot as soon as possible after receiving your request.

The last day to ask for a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed to you is 5 p.m. on the tenth day before the election. The latest a supervisor may mail a vote-by-mail ballot to you is eight days before an election.

12. Can I pick up a vote-by-mail ballot?

(Sections 101.62 and 101.69, Florida Statutes)

You may pick up your vote-by-mail ballot at any time after the ballots are printed and up through Election Day. Your designee may pick up a vote-by-mail ballot for you on Election Day or up to nine days before the day of the election. Your designee is limited per election to picking up two blank vote-by-mail ballots for other voters, not counting his or her own ballot or ballots for members of his or her immediate family. A designee must have [written authorization](#) from you, present a picture I.D., and sign a declaration. If you do not have a vote-by-mail ballot request already on file, a written request must accompany the affidavit.

Election Day pick-up/delivery: The voter, or his or her designee must execute an [Election Day Vote-by-Mail Ballot Delivery Affidavit](#). The affidavit affirms that an emergency keeps the voter from being able to vote at his or her assigned polling place.

13. When must I return my vote-by-mail ballot?

(Sections 101.62 and 101.69, Florida Statutes)

The Supervisor of Elections office must receive your vote-by-mail ballot no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.

If you are an overseas voter voting in a presidential preference primary or general election, you have 10 extra days from Election Day for the ballot to be received by Supervisor of Elections' office.

14. Where do I return my vote-by-mail ballot?

(Section 101.62, Florida Statutes)

You must return your voted vote-by-mail ballot to the Supervisor of Elections in your county of residence. Voted mail ballots cannot be accepted at polling places on election day unless you wish to vote at the polls instead. The returned ballot will be cancelled, and you can vote a regular ballot. You can track the status of your vote-by-mail ballot through www.votecolumbia.ballottrax.net or www.votecolumbiafl.gov.

15. What can I do if I forgot to sign my vote-by-mail ballot or the signature does not match the one on record?

(Sections 101.62 and 101.68, Florida Statutes)

You may still have time to execute a [Vote-by-Mail Ballot Cure Affidavit](#) and have your vote-by-mail ballot counted. The affidavit must be received by the Supervisor of Election no later than 5 p.m. locally on the second day after the election. You must also submit a copy of one of the following forms of identification with your affidavit:

Current and valid ID that includes your name and photograph:

- Florida driver license
- Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
- United States passport
- Debit or credit card
- Military, student, retirement center, neighborhood association, or public assistance ID
- Veteran health ID card issued by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Florida license to carry a concealed weapon or firearm; or employee ID card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the state, a county, or a municipality.

Or only if you do not have one of the above forms of ID, use one of these ID that shows your name and current residence address instead:

- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Government document (excluding voter ID card).

Instructions and the affidavit are available on the Division of Elections' website at: dos.myflorida.com/elections and at www.votecolumbiafl.gov.

**Uniformed Services Members and Overseas Citizens – (UOCAVA)
52 U.S.C. 20301**

16. How do I register to vote or update my registration record?

(Sections 97.053, 101.694, Florida Statutes)

If you are a United States uniformed services member on active duty, a Merchant Marine member, spouse or dependent thereof, or a United States citizen residing outside of the United States, you can register to vote or update your record in the same ways as any other voter. As a UOCAVA voter, in addition to registering online or using the statewide application form, you can also use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The FPCA is unique in that it can be used as either a voter registration application or a request for a vote-by-mail ballot or both. The FPCA is available online on the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at: fvap.gov, or by contacting your Voting Assistance Officer.

17. Can I register after the 29-day deadline for registration?

(See section 97.0555, Florida Statutes)

Yes, you or accompanying family member can register after the 29-day deadline if otherwise qualified and you have:

- Been discharged or separated from the uniformed services or the U.S. Merchant Marine
- Returned from a military deployment or activation
- Been separated from employment outside the territorial limits of the United States

The deadline is 5:00 p.m. in the county of registration on the Friday before the election. You will have to produce sufficient documentation showing evidence of qualifying for the late registration.

18. How do I request a vote-by-mail ballot?

(UOCAVA 52 U.S.C. 20301; Sections 101.62, 101.694, 101.6952, Florida Statutes; Rule 1S-2.030, Fla. Admin. Code)

See Response to Question 10 - How can I request a vote-by-mail ballot?

As a UOCAVA voter, you can use also the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to submit a vote-by-mail ballot request. The FPCA is available online on the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at: fvap.gov, or by contacting your Voting Assistance Officer. A request for a vote-by-mail ballot will be effective as a "standing" request to receive a vote-by-mail ballot for all elections in which you are eligible to participate starting from the date you submitted your initial request through the end of the calendar year of the second ensuing regularly scheduled general election.

19. When can I expect to get my vote-by-mail ballot?

(UOCAVA 52 U.S.C. 20301; Sections 101.62, 101.6952, Florida Statutes; Rule 1S-2.030, Fla. Admin. Code)

Vote-by-mail ballots for requests already on file must be transmitted to absent stateside and overseas uniformed services members and overseas citizens at least 45 days before each election. If you have not received your ballot by two

weeks before an election, contact your county Supervisor of Elections.

If you included an e-mail address with your vote-by-mail ballot request, the Supervisor will use that e-mail address to let you know when your request was received, the estimated date the ballot will be sent to you, and the date your voted ballot was received.

You can also track the status of your vote-by-mail ballot through the voter information lookup through the Division of Elections' website at: dos.myflorida.com/elections or through your Supervisor of Elections' website at www.votecolumbiafl.gov.

20. How and when do I return my vote-by-mail ballot?

(UOCAVA 52 U.S.C. 20301; Sections 101.62, 101.6952, Florida Statutes; Rule 1S-2.030, Fla. Admin. Code)

Once you receive your vote-by-mail ballot, carefully follow the instructions sent to you with your vote-by-mail ballot or else your ballot may not count. Sign and date the ballot certificate to ensure that your ballot is counted. **Return the voted ballot so that your county Supervisor of Elections receives it no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.**

A 10-day extension exists only for *overseas* voters in a presidential preference primary or general election. The ballot will be counted, provided the ballot is:

- Postmarked or dated no later than the date of the election,
- Received by the supervisor of elections of the county in which you are registered to vote no later than 10 days after the date of the election
- Proper (including complete).

Only *overseas* uniformed services members and U.S. citizens can return their voted ballot by fax; otherwise, the voter must return the ballot by mail, personal delivery, or delivery by another person.

You can also track the status of your vote-by-mail ballot through the voter information lookup through the Division of Elections' website at: dos.myflorida.com/elections or through your Supervisor of Elections' website at www.votecolumbiafl.gov.

21. Can I use the federal write-in absentee ballot (FWAB) if my vote-by-mail ballot has not arrived?

(UOCAVA 52 U.S.C. 20301; Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment Act; Section 101.6952, Florida Statutes; Rule 1S-2.051, Fla. Admin. Code)

The federal write-in absentee ballot (FWAB) is an emergency back-up vote-by-mail ballot for absent stateside and overseas uniformed services members and overseas U.S. citizens. If it is getting close to Election Day and you still have not received your vote-by-mail ballot, use the FWAB. The FWAB is available online at: fvap.gov.

To use a FWAB, you must be a registered voter and have already requested a regular vote-by-mail ballot. The FWAB ballot can be used to vote for in any federal, state, or local races. To indicate your choice on a FWAB for:

- A federal office, write the candidate’s name, or for general elections only, you have the option of writing either the candidate’s name or the political party. In the latter case, the vote cast will be counted for the candidate of that political party, if there is such a party candidate on the ballot.
- A state or local office, write the office title and the candidate’s name, or for general elections only, you have the option of writing either the candidate’s name or the candidate’s political party. In the latter case, the vote cast will be counted for candidate’s political party, if there is such a party candidate on the ballot.
- A joint candidacy, you may write your choice for one or both qualified candidates on the same ticket and the vote cast will count for the joint candidacy.
- For a judicial merit retention race, write the name of the judge or justice and specify your vote by writing “yes” or “no” next to the name.
- For any ballot measure, identify the ballot measure by writing it on the ballot and specify your vote by writing “yes” or “no” next to the measure.

22. When can I use the state write-in vote-by-mail ballot?

(Section 101.6951, Florida Statutes; Rule 1S-2.028, Fla. Admin. Code)

If you are an overseas voter and a military or other contingency will keep you from being able to get the official vote-by-mail ballot during the normal delivery period, you can request a State Write-in Vote-by-Mail Ballot from your Supervisor of Elections.

The State Write-in Vote-by-mail ballot can only be used for a general election.

You must request the ballot from your Supervisor of Elections between 180 days (6 months) and 90 days (3 months) before the general election.

(The earliest date to request a State Write-in Ballot for the 2020 General Election is to be determined.)

To mark your choices on the ballot, write in the candidate’s name or the name of a political party. In the latter case, the ballot will be counted for the candidate of that political party, if there is such a party candidate on the ballot.

Early Voting

23. When is early voting?

(Section 101.657, Florida Statutes)

There are three elections in 2024 and early voting will be offered for all of them. See page 2 of this document for dates and times.

Voting at the Polls – What to Expect

24. When will the polls open and close?

(Sections 100.011, 101.657, Florida Statutes)

On Election Day, polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Any voter waiting in line at 7:00 p.m. will have the opportunity to cast a ballot.

25. Where do I vote on election day?

(Sections 101.043, and 101.045, Florida Statutes, and Rule 1S-2.037, Fla. Admin. Code)

You can only vote in the precinct that corresponds to your address of legal residence. To determine your precinct and polling place on Election Day, check your voter information card. You may also find your polling place through the voter information lookup on your Supervisor of Elections' website at www.votecolumbiafl.gov. If you vote at a precinct other than your assigned precinct, you will have to vote a provisional ballot.

26. How will I know if my polling place changes?

(Sections 97.071 and 101.71, Florida Statutes)

Any time you change your address resulting in a change to your assigned polling place or your polling place is changed for other reasons:

- You will receive notice and a new voter information card at least 14 days before the election.
- Notice will also be posted at least once in the newspaper, no sooner than 30 days before, but no later than 7 days before an election.
- A polling place change will be posted on your county Supervisor of Elections' website.
- In the case of an emergency and when time does not permit to provide the notices above, the notice of the new polling place will be posted at the old polling place.

27. What photo identification do I bring?

(Sections 101.043, and 101.045, Florida Statutes, and Rule 1S-2.037, Fla. Admin. Code)

You must show a photo and signature identification before you can vote. The twelve acceptable forms of photo identification are:

- Florida driver license
- Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway, Safety and Motor Vehicles
- United States passport
- Debit or credit card

- Military identification
- Student identification
- Retirement center identification
- Neighborhood association identification
- Public assistance identification
- Veteran health identification card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- License to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to s. 790.06
- Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the state, a county, or a municipality.

Note: If your photo identification does not contain your signature, you will be required to show an additional form of identification that includes your signature. Once your identity has been established, then you will be allowed to vote.

28. Who are poll watchers?

(Section 101.131, Florida Statutes)

Besides poll workers present at the polls to process voters, you may see people who have been designated as poll watchers in the polls. The following entities and persons may each have one poll watcher in each polling room or early voting area at any one time during an election:

- Each political party.
- Each political committee with issues on the ballot that they are registered to support or oppose.
- Each candidate.

Poll watchers may not interact with voters. They must be registered voters in the county in which they serve and cannot be candidates or law enforcement officers. A poll watcher is given an identification badge that he or she must wear while in the polling room or early voting site.

29. What is provisional voting?

(Section 101.048, Florida Statutes; Rule 1S-2.037, Fla. Admin. Code)

If your eligibility to vote cannot be determined for any reason at the polls, you are still entitled to vote using a provisional ballot. You must be given at the time of voting a written notice of rights that includes:

- A statement that you have the right to bring further evidence (if you choose) of your eligibility to the Supervisor of Elections. You have until 5 p.m. of the second day after the election to do so.
- A statement that if you voted a provisional ballot solely because you did not bring in identification, you do not have to bring in further evidence

of eligibility. The local canvassing board will count your ballot if you voted in the right precinct and the signature on the provisional ballot certificate matches the signature on the voter registration record.

- A statement that if you voted a provisional ballot because your personal identifying number could not be verified, you can provide in person or by copy through fax, e-mail, or mail a copy of the card with the identifying number to the Supervisor of Elections and that the deadline is 5 p.m. of the second day after the election to do so.
- Instructions on how you can find out after the election if your provisional ballot was counted, and if not, the reason(s) why.
- A statement that if this is a primary election, you should contact the Supervisor of Elections' office immediately to confirm that you are registered and will be able to vote in the general election.

30. What voting equipment do I use?

(Sections 101.292-101.295, 101.5611, 101.56075, Fla. Stat)

Each county purchases its own voting system. No voting system can be bought or used in an election unless it has first been tested and certified by the Florida Department of State.

All voting must be by a paper ballot which uses a marking device to designate ballot selections. Persons with disabilities have the option to vote on an accessible voting equipment instead.

If you have questions about the voting system in your county and how to use it, contact our office at (386) 758-1026. Instructions on how to use your voting system will also be available at the polls.

Assistance with Voting

31. Can I bring or get help at the polls?

(Sections 97.061, 101.051, 101.661, and 101.655, Florida Statutes)

Yes. If you need help to vote due to blindness, disability, or inability to read or write or need language assistance, you do not have to reveal the nature or extent of a disability. You have several options for voting:

- Vote at the polls using a touchscreen or other accessible marking device. Federal and state laws require accessible voting equipment to be in each polling place. These devices allow you to vote in private with little to no assistance.
- Vote at the polls with personal help. You can have anyone except your employer or employer's agent, or your union's officer or agent, help you. You can also get the help of two election officials at the polling place. You will have to declare in writing that you need help to vote unless you already did so on your voter registration application. If someone other than the clerk or inspector helps you, the person you choose to help you will also have to fill out a declaration. If you have any questions about

getting help, please direct your questions to the clerk at the polling place.

- Vote a vote-by-mail ballot. You can vote from anywhere including your home, assisted living facility or nursing home. You can have anyone except your employer or employer's agent, or your union's officer or agent, help you mark your choices on the ballot.
- Supervised voting at an assisted living facility or nursing home if requested by your facility and made available through your Supervisor of Elections' office.

- If you need assistance in marking your ballot, please let a poll worker know. If you make a mistake on a paper ballot, ask for a replacement. You may receive up to two replacements, or a total of three ballots.

Sample Ballot

32. Where can I get a sample ballot for an upcoming election?

(Section 101.20, Florida Statutes)

Sample ballots are available in the following ways:

- Each polling place will have at least two sample ballots
- The Supervisor of Elections must publish a sample ballot in the newspaper of general circulation in the county before the day of the election
- www.votecolumbiafl.gov

Primary Election

33. What does a “closed primary” mean?

(Sections 100.061 and 101.021, Florida Statutes, and Article VI, Section 5(b), Florida Constitution)

A closed primary in Florida means that only voters who are registered members of a political party which has candidates on the primary election ballot may vote for that party's candidates.

Voters with no party affiliation are not eligible to vote for party candidates in a primary election.

However, all qualified voters regardless of party affiliation or no party affiliation can vote in following races appearing on a primary election ballot:

- All candidates in the same race have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election. (This is known as a Universal Primary Contest.)
- Nonpartisan judicial and school board offices.
- Nonpartisan special districts and other local offices.
- Local referendum questions.

At a *general* election, all registered voters may vote regardless of party affiliation.

Judicial Elections

34. How do I vote on judicial races?

(Section 105.041, Florida Statutes)

All judicial races in Florida are nonpartisan so all registered voters may vote regardless of party affiliation.

Justices of the Florida Supreme Court and judges of the District Courts of Appeal

are appointed, not elected. However, after their appointment, every term thereafter, they will appear on the general election ballot as a question of retention. You will be asked to a vote on their retention by answering 'YES' or 'NO'.

Candidates for circuit and county court judge will appear on the primary and the general election ballots for election. However, some counties may have chosen to vote on a circuit or county court race as a question of retention in lieu of election. In those cases, you will be asked to a vote on their retention by answering 'YES' or 'NO'.

Public Record

35. Is my voter registration and voting history public record?

(Section 97.0585, Florida Statutes)

Yes, voter registration information and voting history are public record. However, the following information is exempt from public disclosure:

- Social Security number
- Florida Driver's License/ID Number
- Location of voter's place of registration or voter registration update. A voter's signature may be viewed but may not be copied.

Your voter registration information may be exempt from public disclosure, if:

- You are or become a participant in the Attorney General's Address Confidentiality Program for victims of domestic violence and stalking. Contact the Attorney General's Office's Bureau of Advocacy and Grants Management at 850.414.3300 to learn how to become a participant. Once you are a participant, contact your county Supervisor of Elections for how to register to vote or if already registered, to get your information protected as a participant. (See section 97.0585(3) and sections 741.401-741.465, Florida Statutes.)
- You fall within one of the statutorily designated classes of high-risk professionals (e.g., judge, prosecutor, firefighter, human resource officer, etc.). You must first submit a written request to your county Supervisor of Elections or the Florida Division of Elections You may use the [Public Records Exemption Request form](#). (Section 119.071(4)(d)1, Fla. Stat). This will only protect address and other identifying information from future public disclosure.

Election Workers

36. How can I become an election worker?

(Sections 102.012, 102.014, and 102.021, Florida Statutes)

You must be a registered or pre-registered voter in Columbia County. You will receive the training necessary to perform your duty as an election worker before every election. Contact dtuggle@votecolumbiafl.gov for more information.